

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 820  
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Susan McGowan on  
being named Lincoln Elementary School  
Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Susan McGowan of Lincoln Elementary School is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McGowan has recently been selected Teacher of the Year for her school, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, as stated by Director of Schools Dr. Dale Lynch, "To be recognized as building level Teacher of the Year by one's colleagues is one of the most prestigious honors one can receive"; and

WHEREAS, all schoolwide Teachers of the Year will be considered for further recognition on a systemwide basis in three categories: pre-k through grade four, grades five through eight, and grades nine through twelve; those winners will then be nominated for district honors; and

WHEREAS, Susan McGowan places great emphasis on education in her personal life, having earned a Bachelor of Science in Early Elementary Education from Florida State University and a Master's degree in Special Education; she has also pursued further coursework at Walters State Community College and the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, she has served with acumen and alacrity as an educator for twenty years; for the last eight, she has worked as a Special Needs Transitional Kindergarten Teacher; and

WHEREAS, Susan McGowan is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential; her students and their families consider themselves tremendously blessed by their association with her; and

WHEREAS, a true leader in her profession, she has served as a mentor for two teachers and has presented workshops for the Northeast Tennessee Special Education Conference, the Tennessee Association of Young Children, and the Lakeway Early Childhood Association on using music, rhythm, and movement with young children; and

WHEREAS, she is also an active and invaluable member of her community; her community involvement includes work with her church and through her children's activities, such as forensics, community theatre, the Rose Center, AYSO, and soccer at West High; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McGowan has taken great care to contribute to the betterment of her students' lives in ways that extend beyond her classroom's doors; she stated, "My students and their families are my priority each year. I have been doing home visits to each one of my families since 1993"; and

WHEREAS, she truly serves as an inspiration to her family, friends, peers, and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate enough to know her; and

WHEREAS, Susan McGowan epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Susan McGowan on being chosen as Teacher of the Year for Lincoln Elementary School, commend her exceptional service to the youth of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.